



U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary

F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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News Advisory

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House Judiciary Committee Continues Moving Job-Friendly Agenda Forward by Approving 3 Measures Limiting Lawsuit Abuse

Sensenbrenner: Republican-led Congress and President Bush Are Having Tremendous Success This Year Promoting Legal Reform

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The House Judiciary Committee yesterday continued moving a job-friendly agenda forward by approving 3 measures to limit lawsuit abuse. The 3 measures approved yesterday are: H.R. 420, the Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act (LARA) introduced by Rep. Lamar S. Smith (R-Tex.); H.R. 554, the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act introduced by Rep. Ric Keller (R-Fla.); and H.R. 800, the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act sponsored chiefly by Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-Fla.) and Rep. Rick Boucher (D-Va.). The House is expected to consider these 3 bills in the next few months.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.), stated, “The Republican-led Congress and President Bush are having tremendous success this year moving a job-friendly agenda forward that cracks down on lawsuit abuse. Already, we have enacted the Class Action Fairness Act to combat abusive class action suits filed by personal injury lawyers that yield millions for the lawyers and mere coupons for the class members. We’ve enacted bankruptcy reform legislation that closed loopholes in a bankruptcy system that promoted fraud and abuse, which had resulted in an estimated \$400 annual ‘tax’ on every household in our nation.

“Yesterday, the House Judiciary Committee approved lawsuit abuse legislation that will require penalties for those who file frivolous lawsuits, which hit small business owners

particularly hard. The Committee also approved the ‘cheeseburger’ bill that says Americans should not be filing lawsuits against the food industry because of their obesity. Finally, the Committee yesterday also approved protection for the gun industry from lawsuits involving the criminal and unlawful misuse of their lawful products. I expect these common-sense legal reform measures that will reduce the lawsuit tax all Americans pay to be considered by the House in the next few months.

“I look forward to the Committee considering asbestos legislation once the Senate passes a bill, medical liability legislation, and any other bills necessary to promote job creation by protecting entrepreneurs and businesses from frivolous lawsuits.”

109th Congress House Judiciary Committee Legal Reform Highlights

- **Class Action Fairness Act (S. 5)** – Enacted, February 18, 2005, Public Law 109-2.
- **Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act (S. 256)** – Enacted, April 20, 2005, Public Law 109-8.
- **LARA (H.R. 420)** – House Judiciary Committee approved, May 25, 2005.
- **“Cheeseburger” Bill (H.R. 554)** – House Judiciary Committee approved, May 25, 2005.
- **Gun Liability (H.R. 800)** – House Judiciary Committee approved, May 25, 2005.

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